AIM

THE BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT

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VIET-NAM AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARIES, 1966

Four candidates vigorously opposing the Viet-Nam war won the Democratic Party's Congressional nomination in primaries on June 7. Three others polled over 40% of the vote, an impressive indication of the national movement for a new politics.

Robert Scheer, author of "How the U.S. Got Involved in Vietnam" and an outspoken opponent of the war, polled 45% of the vote against a strongly entrenched liberal encumbent, Jeffrey Cohelan in a district covering Oakland and Berkeley, Calif. When the campaign began no one expected Mr. Scheer to poll even 20% of the vote. Mr. Scheer, who is foreign editor of Ramparts magazine lost 35,270 to 28,751. Elsewhere in California, Edward M. Keating, the publisher of Ramparts received 29,885 votes or 47% of the total in his bid for the 11th District Democratic nomination. Philip Drath, another peace candidate, received 45% in the 1st District.

Peace candidates in California who won nomination were incumbents George Brown and Don Edwards and two unopposed candidates George Leppert and LeRue Grimm. So far other winning peace candidates include Charles Porter in Oregon and Joe Varrone in Florida.

A nearly complete news blackout left unreported the success of these candidates. The New York Times (June 8) described the amazing showing of Scheer, Keating and Drath as "A half dozen Democratic peace candidates . . . got nowhere." No percentages were given. Last year we heard so much talk about the Johnson consensus. Now the

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Meredith and New Haven

WHAT HAPPENED

On Tuesday, June 7 the American Independent Movement joined with the NAACP, the Hill Parents' Association and CORE in front of the Federal building in New Haven to protest the inadequate federal enforcement of the civil rights of Negroes that had resulted in the shooting of James Meredith by Aubrey James Norvall. Mr. Meredith, the first Negro to attend the University of Mississippi, was on a 220 mile "march against fear." His aim was to encourage Negroes to overcome their fear of white vengeance and register to vote.

In the morning while Bob Cook met with the U.S. Attorney for the State of Connecticut, better than 60 people walked outside the federal building. NAACP chairman, Mrs. Leila McGowen, HPA president Fred Harris and Bob later addressed the crowd that had gathered. Bob said that "The shooting of James Meredith is the kind of violence that has disenfranchised Mississippi Negroes in the past. The failure of Northern and Connecticut Democratic Congressmen to repudiate the racist wing of their party and their failure to vote for the seating of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party implies tacit acceptance of this brutality. We must insist upon their responsibility for the consequences."

At 8 p.m. a meeting was held at the HPA office, 605 Congress Ave. There it was decided to conduct a massive voter registration drive in the Third District, to send representatives to join the march in Mississippi, and to hold another march that night to inform and encourage the people of New Haven. Singing freedom songs all the way, the marchers,

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WHAT IT MEANS

The horror was not that Meredith could be shot on a public highway, but that everyone silently expected that he would be shot. A Negro in Mississippi who will accept his role as an inferior and dependent being, who will always defer to the white man and not complain about primitive education and housing, can get along quite cordially with a white Mississippian. Violence is reserved for the "uppity" Negro. This continues because the Negro has no control over the means of power - money, jobs, the schools, juries, the sheriff's office, the legislature. But is this not also true of the North and of New Haven? As decent men Mississippi concerns us. As citizens of Connecticut the subtle discrimination of poverty concerns us. White middle class neighborhoods would never tolerate schools such as Prince, nor the police harassment that goes on in Dixwell and the Hill. These conditions occur because poor people and black people are powerless. CPI and the present incumbent are for equal handouts to the poor. Bob Cook and the people at AIM are for equal power for the poor so that handouts will be no longer necessary.

Mr. Giaimo, the present incumbent, voted in 1965 to reject the challenge to the seating of Mississippi's racist Congressional delegation, although their election was void under the 14th amendment which provides for reduction of a state's representation if it illegally prevents any of its citizens from voting. He also voted against home rule for the District of Columbia which has a Negro majority. In both cases the Negro was going beyond begging for welfare and

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AIM

Editorial Staff
John Sinisi
Jon Johanning
Elizabeth Berliner
Andy Graham
Ron Kirchem
The campaign publication of the Independent Political Action Committee will be published every two weeks. Letters to the editor are invited. Please keep them short and send them to AIM Editor
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WHAT HAPPENED CONT.

the majority of whom were Negro, snaked through the Hill neighborhood, gathering recruits, demonstrated in front of the Federal building, and ended at the Cook office 100 strong. An open discussion there made it clear that people felt New Haven had plenty of its own civil rights problems. Larry Carter of CORE said "the time has come for all black people to embody their knowledge and talents and persevere until all people in Mississippi can vote, until there are more and better jobs for the people of Watts, and decent housing in New Haven. The nation is not free, until all of its people are."

On June 14 Shel Stromquist and Bruce Detwiler of the Yale Civil Rights Council drove to Mississippi to deliver clothing that had been collected and join the continuation of the Meredith march. Meanwhile the Council issued the following endorsement: "The members of the Yale Civil Rights Council wish to announce their enthusiastic support of Bob Cook for Congress in Connecticut's Third District. We are tired of seeing congressmen reluctantly granting Negroes their rights in half measures... and sitting passively by while (legislation) remains unenforced ...Bob Cook's candidacy is one sign among many of a new style in politics - a style which values participation over representation."

SPECIAL NOTICE

AIM is sent free to anyone requesting it, but your voluntary contribution is welcome to defray production and mailing costs. Send $2.00 (more if you like) to: Cook Campaign, 241 Orange Street, New Haven. You will receive a "Cook for Congress" bumper sticker by return mail.

STRIKE AT UNITED ILLUMINATING

The Federation of Utility Employees struck the United Illuminating Company on Monday, June 13. In New Haven 400 union workers are on strike, representing 95% of the unionized employees. From the beginning of the strike Robert Cook supported the demands of the union, while workers from the Cook campaign organization have been on the scene in New Haven each day.

The main issue of the strike is the company's attempt to remove a seniority clause from the new contract. Presently the man with highest seniority in the rank below a vacancy must be given a 90 day trial period to prove himself on the job. Union negotiators agreed to a reduction of the trial period from 90 to 30 days. Under the company proposal job advancement would be wholly at the discretion of the company, a throwback to pre-union days when seniority counted for nothing.

Union leaders also objected to the pay-raise offer since it is weighted towards the upper end of the company job scale. Fringe benefits along with the pay raise undercut the effects of the raise since they are drawn directly from weekly wages.

The immediate support of the union demands by Robert Cook met with a warm reception from strike leaders. In a recent statement Cook asked that everyone respect the union's picket line. He noted that the United Illuminating facility in Bridgeport has hired college students to work in the power-plant there and to act as strike-breakers.

Cook noted that, "This strike could have been avoided by the company for a mere $30,000 to $40,000 per year. This is a tiny amount when you consider the rate structure and profit margin of the company. The union's demands for upgrading of jobs and more vacation time should be met."

REMEMBER TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

Registration is held in the Hall of Records in New Haven from 5 to 7 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Thursday July 21 is your next chance to register!

Bumper stickers.

VIET-NAM CONT.

Gallup poll shows his popularity beginning to slip below 50%, while insurgent campaigns demanding an end to the war now pull up to 47%. And our campaign has 4½ months to go. Why doesn't the press report the evidence of this shift, such as the Scheer campaign. Can it be that they don't think it is important? The effect of the blackout is to discourage people who doubt the war by inaccurately making the movement for peace in Viet-Nam appear as an isolated fringe, which it definitely is not.

WHAT IT MEANS CONT.

civil rights handouts and was asking for political power in proportion to his numbers. Equality and dignity cannot be achieved through handouts, but only through a sharing in power, a sharing in the decision-making process. If the present incumbent sides with the entrenched interests in Mississippi because they control powerful House committees, can he be expected to buck the entrenched interests of the Third District who control his nomination? The difference between the present Representative and Cook is not merely a platform but a way of thinking and feeling about life. The incumbent believes that the people in power including himself know best. Bob Cook believes that the common people should have control over the forces that shape their lives.

CHINA SINCE THE REVOLUTION

Vic Lippit

In evaluating the performance of an economy, or more broadly, that of a social system, it is helpful to avoid the temptation to think simply in comparative terms, drawing contrasts with the performance of other countries in different circumstances. Rather, it may be more revealing to take an "inside" view, analyzing performance in terms of the specific problems with which a country is faced. This is particularly true with regard to modern China.

The most serious problems facing China in 1949 were those associated with poverty: marginal food production and a history of recurrent famine, an annual per capita income in the region of $50-60, 85-95% of the population illiterate and very limited medical services and facilities, (in 1949 China had fewer than 40,000 trained doctors for a population close to 600,000,000). In 1949 too China had to deal with the problems of economic reconstruction after years of war -- foreign and civil. For a century capitalist nations had found profitable investments, markets, resources, and cheap labor in China, culminating in the Japanese invasion of the 1930's. In 1936, Japan with 40.0% of the total for investment of $3,483 million, Britain with 35.0%, the U.S. with 8.6%, France with 6.7%, and Germany with 4.3% were the leading investors in China. The whole process bore an embarassing resemblance to the theory of imperialism first developed by Hobson and later elaborated by Lenin.

To the concerns just mentioned must be added a whole host of social problems including unequal income and property distribution, the unequal status of women, the breakdown of the traditional authoritarian family structure, etc. Analysis of life in revolutionary China must include an assessment of the relative degree of success or failure in dealing with these problems and in achieving the over-riding objective of development and modernization of the economy.

1950-52 was a period of reconstruction--by 1952 the production of most items was on a par with that of the pre-war peak years. The first five year plan ran from 1953-57. The total value of industrial production, including handicrafts, grew from 34,326 million yuan in 1952 to 78,390 million yuan in 1957 (in 1952 fixed prices). The figures for producer goods output for these two years are 12,220 million yuan and 37,940 million yuan for 1952 and 1957 respectively. Industrial crop output also increased rapidly, but grain production increased only slightly faster than the 2% annual increase in population.

National income continued to expand rapidly into mid-1959. Starting in 1958 an effort called the "Great Leap Forward" was initiated, involving an attempt to double national income in three years. While output did increase rapidly the first year, the planning proved overambitious, and together with unusually poor weather conditions and the Russian aid pull-out, contributed to a three-year period of economic decline. Signs of recovery were evident by early 1962 and progress has been steady since then.

A tight system of rationing prevented starvation during the lean years, but food rations were minimal and the subsequent period has been marked by the priority given to agriculture. Industrial production has forged well ahead of the best years of the 1950's, with emphasis given to quality and the diversification of production skills. This emphasis on self-sufficiency is associated with China's unhappy experience with Russian advisers.

In education China has made repeated strides. Primary school enrollment, for example, increased from slightly over 23½ million in the pre-1949 peak year to 91 million in 1960. Reflecting the rapid growth in higher and technical education, total scientific and engineering manpower increased from about 600,000 in 1955 to 2.4 million in 1962. In health care too changes have been substantial. In the ten years to 1960, hospital beds and doctors qualified in Western terms increased four to five times. This is still far short of the need, but the institutionalized national mania for cleanliness has sharply cut the incidence of infectious diseases.

The traditional Chinese family system, with its subjugation of the woman (marriages were arranged, the children and the husband's property went to his parents, rather than to his widow, etc.) has been slowly disintegrating from the start of the century, with the impact of Western ideals and values. The marriage law following the Revolution helped complete the process giving women legal equality, instituting love rather than arrangement as the basis for marriage, etc. The new Chinese marriage law, in institutionalizing individual rights, makes the Chinese family system much closer to the Western mode. The emancipation of the Chinese woman is reflected in other ways, too: from 1951-59 women college and university students increased from 35,000 to 180,000; between 1949 and 1960 the number of women workers increased from 600,000 to 8 million; by 1962 more than 20% of the research workers in the Chinese Academy of Sciences were women.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of Chinese society, distinguishing it from both non-Communist and European Communist countries, is the popularly called "brainwashing": everyone goes through a process of public self-criticism and analysis over a prolonged period of time. The attempt is to have people internalize a socialist morality, with a personal sense of responsibility to others. Most of us in the West, where culture norms have imposed themselves on us in more subtle ways, would probably find the process repugnant. Some Chinese obviously do. On the other hand, the problem of crime has been sharply reduced and it is clear that the majority of the population does feel that the regime acts in its interests (note the arming of an enormous militia--an action no government unsure of its people would take).

China has clearly set the basis for continued and rapid economic growth--there can be little question about her ability to overcome the problems of poverty. The limitations on freedom of thought and speech would prove unacceptable to most of us in the West. Even so, they mark no sharp disparity with previous Chinese history. The success of the regime in dealing with China's manifold social and economic problems have earned for it the support of most Chinese people.

PLEASE PASS AIM NEWSLETTER ON TO FRIENDS--AND SEND US NEW NAMES FOR THE MAILING LIST!

PROPOSAL FOR AIM LABOR PLANK

As contact with organized labor increases, so does the AIM mailing list and our understanding of labor problems. Monday evening, June 6, we met with union men from American Cyanamid, Pratt-Whitney and other plants and organizations. Discussion covered both specific incidents involving the unions and general ideas on how best we can present out concerns to organized labor. The meeting arrived at two general conclusions.

First, we will continue to become involved in cases of injustice to legitimate labor interests. Thus an open letter was sent to Governor Dempsey protesting the pro-company partiality of certain police officials in the American Cyanamid strike. In his letter of June 14 to Bob Cook, Governor Dempsey detailed the investigation he had immediately undertaken in response to the open letter and promised further "inquiry" should we submit further material.

Secondly, AIM will dispatch Bob Cook and other members to address local union meetings, as Democrats and Republicans usually do. For, in labor matters as in the field of civil rights, the Viet Nam war, and the war on poverty, our opponent, Mr. Giaimo, has an unearned reputation for a liberalism he does not in fact practice, except on some occasions dictated by political expediency. For example, we can mention his votes against the $1 billion aid to Appalachia bill in 1965 and his systematic opposition to the federal rent subsidy programs which have a real potential to improve and integrate American neighborhoods (and thus the educational and local political systems as well).

We present below a proposed labor plank distilled from the ideas and suggestions of several union people. Comments as usual are appreciated.

1. Oppose all wage guide lines or other one-sided efforts to restrict further the functions of the trade unions.

2. Curb high profits, particularly in war production industries, through higher taxation.

3. Compel industries engaged in war production to put aside a portion of their profits into a peace security fund to finance workers during lay-offs and for later retraining for peacetime jobs.

4. Amend the Taft-Hartley Act provisions which are especially burdensome on the workers:

   a) Abolish the restrictive section 14 (b), allowing "right to work" laws.

   b) Eliminate all restrictions on "on-site" picketing by supporting H.R. 10027.

5. Raise the minimum hourly wage rate to $2.00 for all workers.

6. Establish a 35-hour work week with no reduction in pay.

7. Increase and amend social security benefits to enable retired citizens to meet rising costs of living.

8. Increase Unemployment Compensation benefits for unemployed workers to 52 weeks in place of the 26 week limit in Connecticut. Increase base rates and benefits for dependents of unemployed workers.

9. Grant unemployment benefits to high school graduates who seek to enter the labor market, but have not had previous jobs to qualify for any benefits under existing provisions.

10. Improve the provisions of the Medicare Act by extending coverage to include visits by private physicians to the homes of the elderly sick.

11. Solve the perpetual crisis of the New Haven Railroad by bringing the railroad under public ownership without any restrictions on the union rights and benefits of railroad workers.

Five of Mrs. Reid's seven children - they finally received welfare.

BUREAUCRATIC WELFARE

The Hill Parents Association proved once again that established bureaucracies can be forced to change course when people organize and take collective action. Mrs. Jennie Reid, who had tried hard to get help on her own, finally was granted emergency welfare payments after seven adults from the Hill Parents Association and eleven children staged a sit-in at the state welfare office on Bassett Street, Friday, June 10.

Mrs. Reid, born and raised in New Haven, lived in Kansas City for nine years with her husband. Now alone, she has been back in New Haven for five months. Twice she applied for aid through all the various channels. With seven young children, she has nonetheless been forced to work part time at the Veterans' Hospital. She had no choice but to live with relatives who had no room until Redevelopment found her a place at 200 Putnam Street.

Mrs. Reid received a check on Monday, June 13, because of the Hill Parents Association action. But Mrs. Reid's troubles are not over. When the 60 days are past, there is no guarantee that she will be able to get further aid. Many New Haven residents continue to suffer under inadequate welfare laws, sometimes inadequately administered. But the lesson was again clear that people can successfully act together to demand justice and the opportunity to lead a more human life.

CORE LEADER DENOUNCES WAR

(The following article appeared in Muhammed Speaks (June 17, 1966) the newspaper of the Black Muslim movement. We reprint it both for the arguments it advances and to help our readers understand the mood of the Negro today).

Washington: the only black leader attending the White House Conference to Fulfill These Rights who had the integrity and courage to demand, in the name of humanity, the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Viet Nam, Floyd McKissick, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, was voted down, but his courageous stand did more to dignify the demands of his people than all the unremembered resolutions passed at that session.

James I. Nabrit, deputy United States representative to the United Nations and president of Howard University, as committee chairman, struck from McKissick's resolution the words demanding that the U.S. withdraw from Viet Nam and said:

"I don't want to put that albatross around the neck of the civil rights movement."

But Lincoln O. Lynch, associate national director of CORE, at the East Side Mobilization for Peace Rally, answered Mr. Nabrit in a penetrating expose of "Uncle Tomism" in high places.

"Mr. Whitney Young of the Urban League, and Mr. Roy Wilkins of the NAACP and other Negro leaders have taken the position that citizens, especially Negro citizens, need take no part in what they term 'a foreign policy matter'," Lynch said.

"More recently, another so-called black leader has stated that to oppose the Viet Nam war is 'to hang an albatross around the neck of the Civil Rights Movement.'

"This can only be the position of those who are contemptuous of black people, of those so closely tied to the power structure as to be completely ignorant of what is happening in the ghettos and slums of our nation, of those not concerned or indifferent to the hopes and aspirations of people the world over for peace, or of those fearful of the opprobrium and disfavor of the power structure and of those who profit from the war.

"To support a war such as this, one so suffused with conscious racism, is to support the racism on which it feeds. To support such a war as this is to support the Nixons, the Goldwaters, the Wallaces, the Eastlands, and countless others who blueprinted this war and who now extol all its virtues.

"To support this war is to support the use of black taxpayers' money to destroy and subjugate other poor colored folk. To support this war is to support the use of gas against an unfortunate people, and I will point out that this form of modern 'humane warfare' was not even used against the Nazi beasts.

"America has become a nation of hypocrites. A place where we preach peace, yet wage war in all its starkest horror.

"We have become a land where to work for peace is a traitorous, disloyal act, where an expression of humanity is considered treason.

"We have become a land where to work for the belief in brotherhood and equality is reason for suspicion, ostracism and even murder.

"No, Dr. Nabrit, this illegal war in Viet Nam is not an albatross around the neck of the Civil Rights Movement, rather it is a millstone around the neck of every Negro in the United States, especially the Negro poor.

"The Negro cries out for jobs, for decent housing, for quality education for his children--and the white power structure, from the President on down, answers, 'Look man, Thurgood Marshall is our Solicitor General, Roy Wilkins' nephew is the director of the Community Relations Service. We even have one of you on the Federal Reserve Board. What do you people want anyway?'

"The Negro cries out aloud for his freedom, his dignity, for his humanity--and white America in one voice answers:'WAIT.'

"The nation's poor and their miseries must WAIT...WAIT until we have made the world safe for democracy. WAIT until we have caged the Russian bear. WAIT until we have tamed the Chinese tiger.

"WAIT until Guatemala is safe. WAIT until we have knocked off the bearded Cuban. WAIT until Santo Domingo is safe.

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"OUTRAGED" REPUBLICAN

(The following letter from a local area resident appeared in n the New Haven Register of June 8)

'Outraged' Republican

To the Editor:

As a registered Republican I am outraged by the recent public spectacle of my party. I am doubly outraged by the fact that for the past four congressional elections our party has chosen as their candidate individuals who at best are suited to run for dogcatcher and whose public image would be rivalled by any fourth-string clerk in the Hall of Records. This is particularly galling to me because the Democratic candidate during those four years has been a man bereft of imagination, ideals, or purpose beyond that of serving as the elected messenger boy of his state machine and a few select corporations.

It is time that the Republicans of the 3rd District offer the people of the area a real choice by running a candidate of some ability. Why oppose a mediocre incumbent with a mediocre opponent. There is nothing undemocratic about running a better man.

At this moment the only man who offers such a choice is Robert M. Cook and he is running as an independent. Why don't the Republicans of the District wake up to a real opportunity and nominate him? Many of my Republican friends will vote for Cook if the Republican party puts up another nonentity like 1964. Although we don't agree entirely with his stand on Viet-Nam we do realize that it is eating up our tax dollars, causing inflation, and generally unsettling the economy. We are opposed to big, impersonal bureaucratic government and so is Robert Cook. He is a far better candidate than anything which the regular Republican organization will now come up with. He stands a real chance of beating the Democratic incumbent and with support from individual Republicans like me he will.

AIM

Independent Political Action Committee
241 Orange Street
New Haven
Connecticut

CORE LEADER DENOUNCES VIET-NAM WAR
(continued from page 5)

"And now--WAIT until we have brought democracy to Viet Nam!

"How can our president, our Senators, our Congressmen, our national leaders ask black people to wait while nearly 20 per cent of the casualties in Viet Nam are our black sons fighting and dying for a democracy abroad they cannot enjoy at home?

"How can Congress vote huge funds --one billion dollars per month-- for an illegal, undemocratic war in Viet Nam, and vote against democratic Home Rule in the nation's capital? Is democracy in Viet Nam more desirable and beneficial to America than democracy in Washington, D.C.?

"We say to our President, STOP this senseless, useless slaughter: this needless wanton waste of our material and human resources. Bring our sons home.

"Fight the real war, against poverty, against hunger, against disease, against ignorance: the war against racism and inequality in our own land. Let's worry less about saving face, Mr. President, and more about saving lives.

"The struggle to end the war in Viet Nam is an integral part of the civil and human rights struggle and we of CORE have played and will continue to play a major role in this struggle, in spite of the detractions of misguided sycophants," Lynch concluded.